There must be some suggestion in the references to motivate a cited combination. The references fail to suggest the positioning of a focal plane array or imaging device at the distal end of an endoscope to perform Raman or fluorescence imaging. Ito and Nagasaki disclose imaging with a distally mounted CCD. The desire to avoid the difficulty of broken fibers is not a motivation to use distally mounted imaging devices for Raman or fluorescence imaging.

New claims 35-37 were filed with the prior response but were not considered. Consideration thereof is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (508) 416-2475.

Respectfully submitted,
BOWDITCH & DEWEY, LLP

By _____
Thomas O. Hoover
Date: April 1, 2003
Registration No.: 32,470
Direct tel.: (508) 416-2475
Telephone: (508) 879-5700
Facsimile: (508) 929-3073

Bowditch & Dewey, LLP
161 Worcester Road
P.O. Box 9320
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701-9320

MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

Specification Amendments Under 37 C.F. R. § 1.121(b)(1)(iii)

Replace the paragraph on page 14, lines 3 through 17 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 4 illustrates a third alternative embodiment in which the FPA detector [140] 330 is positioned in the distal end of the laser endoscope. Since the FPA detector 330 is provided without the intervening collection bundle, the full spatial resolution of the FPA detector 330 can be realized. A lens 240 is provided so that an image is formed on the FPA detector while an optical filtering device 340, such as an acousto-optic filter, is positioned between lens 240 and the FPA 330 to enable isolation of the spectral bands of interest. Power to the FPA detector 330 and signals representing the detected images are transmitted by cable 310. Since the FPA detector must be cooled for proper operation, it is set in a heat sink 320 which receives coolant from line 300.